

SEN. STENNIS BARES REPORT OF RED MOVES

Powerful Forces Building Up

REFUGEES ARRIVE

Freighter with 1,176 Cuban refugees docks at Port Everglades, Fla., after overnight voyage in heavy seas. Story on page 2.

BY WILLIAM MOORE

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Jan. 25 — Sen. John Stennis (D., Miss.) announced today that the Senate armed services preparedness subcommittee will begin as soon as possible an investigation of reports that he has received of a new and powerful Russian military buildup in Cuba.

Stennis' announcement, which cast doubt on President Kennedy's statement of yesterday that there is no evidence of any offensive preparations in Cuba since the October crisis, came shortly after a mysterious closed door meeting of the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on Latin America.

Senators emerged from that meeting with conflicting reports as to what they had learned of the reported buildup from Sec-

retary of State Dean Rusk and Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence agency.

Air Support Another Phase

Stennis, chairman of the preparedness subcommittee, did not mention the controversy over whether the Bay of Pigs invaders were promised, and then refused, United States air support.

It was expected, nevertheless, that this would be one of the subjects of the inquiry, which he said would include Cuba's military strength, the kind of weapons in Cuba, and the military threat posed by the Cuban situation.

The Senate already has pending a resolution by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), calling for an inquiry by the Senate armed services committee on the denial by Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy—repeated yesterday by President Kennedy—that no air support was promised the Bay of Pigs invaders.

Morse Summons Rusk

The controversy over the air support arises from the fact that neither the President nor the attorney general ever denied until this week that it had been promised, altho the public had been led to believe for 21 months that it had been.

The closed door meeting had been called with considerable fanfare by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chairman of the subcommittee on Latin America, before President Kennedy had denied knowledge of a new buildup.

Morse invited Rusk to "brief" the subcommittee. When McCone heard about the invitation, he came along.

Sen. George Aiken (R., Vt.) emerged from the meeting and told reporters Russia has built an "enormously strong" military and political base in Cuba that is "much stronger" than it was six months ago. That was before the October crisis that ended with an announcement by the administration that Russia had removed her missiles and other offensive weapons.

Democrats Don't Agree

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (Minn.), Senate Democratic whip and a Kennedy administration spokesman, came from the same meeting assuring reporters that he had heard nothing of any "significant" buildup.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D., Mo.), also emerged saying he is disturbed by the Russian military "complex" in Cuba and that the buildup is continuing.

Morse, the most talkative member of the Senate next to Humphrey, refused to tell what Rusk and McCone had said.

Morse has not quarreled with the Kennedy administration since it appointed him chief mediator of the longshoremen's strike, a post in which he got headlines with his "settlement."

The mystery of whether there is a new buildup or not recalled that Sen. Kenneth Keating (R., N. Y.) had warned of the buildup that brought the October crisis—and told the Senate he knew about it—several days before President Kennedy said he had found out about it.



Secretary Rusk (left) and John A. McCone arrive at Senate subcommittee meeting.